

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (POPOV, IVAN), BTTRA, BU

SUBJECT: NEWS RELEASE CONCERNING POPOV VISIT

REF: STATE 194420

1. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRESS RELEASE DATED SEPTEMBER 9 CONCERNING THE VISIT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POPOV TO THE U.S.

2. QUOTE. IVAN POPOV, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF BULGARIA, WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 22, FOR TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN. INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES BY U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FREDERICK B. DENT, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO A PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING, IS THE HIGHEST RANKING BULGARIAN OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE U.S. SINCE 1960.

3. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, PROFESSOR POPOV WILL ATTEND THE
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SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BULGARIAN

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC COUNCIL. COMPOSED OF MEMBER BUSINESSMEN OF THE TWO CHAMBERS, THE COUNCIL IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN THE EXPANSION OF U.S.-BULGARIAN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION, AND HELP ELIMINATE OBSTACLES TO TRADE.

4. FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, PROFESSOR POPOV WILL TOUR THE UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH U.S. INDUSTRY AND FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AND INTERESTED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH BULGARIA. AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, POPOV PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN DECISIONS CONCERNING HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. POPOV WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A NUMBER OF OTHER LEADING OFFICIALS IN THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY, AMONG THEM AN ADVISOR AT THE STATE COUNCIL, THE FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE BANK, AND DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE COMMITTEE OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRIES OF MACHINEBUILDING AND METALLURGY, ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, AND AGRICULTURE AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY.

6. U.S. FIRMS WISHING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING PROFESSOR POPOV'S ITINERARY IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN NEW YORK CITY (TELEPHONE 212-661-1252), OR THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE DIVISION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (TELEPHONE 202-967-5500). UNQUOTE
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